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PRESS RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Peter Kinder names Ola Bledsoe of St. Louis as Senior Service Award Winner

Award recognizes volunteer work by Missouri Seniors

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today announced 35 winners of the Lieutenant Governor’s Senior Service Award, including Ola Bledsoe of St. Louis.

Lt. Governor Kinder presented the awards today (May 8) at a luncheon for the winners and their guests outside his office in the Capitol. Bledsoe was nominated by the VA St. Louis Health Care System in St. Louis.

Bledsoe, a U.S. Army veteran, volunteers on behalf of the Women’s Army Corp Veterans’ Association at the John Cochran VA Medical Center. She is an original member of the Voluntary Service Organization, a caregiver support program. She also serves on the hospital’s Holiday Committee, which donates and distributes gifts monthly to about 125 inpatient veterans.

In the hospital’s nomination, Rimaann Nelson, executive director of the hospital, said Bledsoe genuinely enjoys serving veterans. She said Bledsoe often volunteers after hours and for special events. “It is rare to find a volunteer – or a person for that matter – as compassionate and willing to help other people as Ms. Bledsoe,” Gunter said.

Lt. Governor Kinder presented Bledsoe with an official declaration and a Senior Service Award lapel pin at a ceremony in the Capitol.

“Ola Bledsoe sets an example for all Missourians with her kindness and willingness to serve veterans,” Kinder said. “Her selfless service is an inspiration to all who know her.”

Kinder this year received more than 150 nominations for the Senior Service Award, naming 34 winners representing the state’s 34 Senatorial Districts and one at-large winner. Bledsoe won in District 14.